

Remarks

Applicants have amended claim 1 and added new claim 21. Support for Applicants' amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0024] and FIGS. 2A, 2B of the present application. Support for Applicants' new claim 21 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0023] and FIG. 2A of the present application. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 10 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Morris, U.S. Patent No. 5,708,400, hereinafter Morris.

Applicants respectfully submit that Morris does not anticipate Applicants' independent claim 1, as amended, or claims dependent thereupon. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the limitation of "...wherein electronic components are physically coupled only to said first and second segments ..." (emphasis added). Applicants' claimed invention is related to having a third segment which is not physically coupled to an electronic component (e.g. electronic device or current load), whereas only the first and second segments are physically coupled to electronic components. Referring to FIG. 2A of the present application, for example, DC to DC converter 130 is physically coupled only to the first segment 205-1 by pin 135 and electronic component 145 is physically coupled only to the second segment 205-2 by pin 150. There is no electronic component physically coupled to the third segment 205-3. Thus, since the pair of conductive vias 230-1, 230-2 are coupled to the third segment, the vias 230-1, 230-2 are also not coupled to an electronic component.

Morris does not anticipate Applicants' claim 1, as amended. Morris discloses vias in all segments of the power supply plane 3 coupled at one end to a power supply plane 3 or a ground plane 4, and at another end to an electronic component (e.g. resistor 11/capacitor 12; culprit circuit

5; or, resistor 13/capacitor 14). Morris is silent on only first and second segments of the power supply plane 3 being physically coupled to an electronic component. Rather, all segments of the power supply plane 3 of Morris are coupled to an electronic component, respectively, and vias are used to make the physical (and electrical) connection from the power supply plane 3 or ground plane 4 to the electronic components. Morris provides no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of a segment of the power supply plane 3 which is not physically coupled to an electronic component.

Morris does not anticipate new claim 21. As discussed above, Morris discloses vias which terminate at one end on electronic components and not pads as claimed by Applicants.

Claims 2, 10, 12-16 and 21 are dependent upon Claim 1; and as discussed above, Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Morris. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of Morris has been overcome and it is respectfully requested that the pending claims be passed to issuance in view of the amendment and remarks.

Prior Art Made of Record

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied upon, US Patent No. 6,337,798 (Hailey et al.), and respectfully submit that Hailey does not anticipate, teach or suggest Applicants' claim 1, as amended, or claims dependent thereupon.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this response. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,

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